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Editorial Notes and Comment



PRESBYTERIAN PIONEERS IN CONGO.

This is the title to a most delightful book just from the press. It is by Rev. Dr. W. H. Sheppard for twenty years one of our most efficient missionaries on the Congo in Africa. This is a wonderfully interesting account of the founding and development of the marvelous work that our Church has been permitted to do in the dark continent. Those who have heard Dr. Sheppard speak know what a marvelous story he has to tell, and how strikingly he tells it. His style is peculiarly his own. It is concise, clear and pointed, with sparkling humor thrown in in the most unexpected places. This book is specially opportune, as mission classes and societies are studying Africa this year. It can be secured from the Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va., for 35 cents in paper binding and 50 cents in cloth. We hope to give a fuller review of this book next week.

HOOVERIZE Your Plate. We like the expression, and especially the meaning which it carries, as given by a correspondent on another page. The enormous waste at many private tables, but especially at the hotel and restaurant tables, is little less than criminal. Many times it seems that more food is wasted at the table than is actually eaten. But the actual loss thus entailed is not the worst feature of this habit. This is only a symptom of carelessness in regard to what seem to be small matters. In all seriousness we once offered to meet all of a family's household expenses, and take as compensation for the service rendered what could be saved from wastage. A little observation showed that it would have provided a good salary. The wastage in this country is far greater than the whole amount given to the Lord's work. Let us save, that we may give.

EDUCATION of the youth of the land is far too important to think of neglecting it because we are engaged in a great war. It may be the cost of living will go higher than it is, but even if it does, parents should not fail to send their boys and girls to school and college. It may require some sacrifice, but what parent will not make any sacrifice necessary to do what will be of inestimable value to his child? The money saved from his education may give the boy and his family a few more comforts during the year, or he and they may have a little more saved at the close of the war than they would have if he had gone to college, but what will those things amount to compared with the better preparation which he will gain for his life's work. Some boys in their patriotic zeal want to enlist in the service of their country in some way, even if it be only by farming. But they should remember that their country needs trained men in every department of knowledge. A year in college

may fit a young man for some important position, which he could not otherwise fill. If the war lasts for several years, there is going to be an enormous demand for educated men. And whether it lasts a long or a short time, when it is over, the demand for men of well-trained minds is going to be greater than ever before in the history of the world. Hundreds of thousands of the educated young men in Europe have been killed in battle or permanently disabled. These places in the work and business of the world must be taken largely by the young men of America. Therefore, every parent owes it as a patriotic duty to his country and to the world to see that his son gets the best education possible. What has been said in regard to young men will apply practically just as well to the case of the young woman.

RUMORS have been started that some of the colleges are going to close next session on account of the war. It is said by some that so many of the students in some colleges have enlisted that there will not be enough left to keep the institutions going. We are sure this is a mistake. We are in pretty close touch with all the Presbyterian schools of the South, and we have not received the slightest intimation that one of them is even considering the question of closing its doors next session. It should be remembered that a very small proportion of the college students are old enough to enlist in the army, and those who were old enough last session were chiefly in the senior classes. There are a plenty of younger boys to make up in the lower classes for all who are lost in the higher. We hope that no parent will fail to send his boy to the college of his choice because of any rumor he may have heard of its closing. We predict that the attendance at the colleges of our land next session will be fully up to their average.

DANGER lies before religious papers and their readers. Of course, the war is constantly in the minds of all the people. The result is that there is a great temptation to editors and others to write about the war. Readers, when they take up a paper, look first of all to see what is said about the war. Naturally and properly the secular papers are full of war news. The religious papers will not, and ought not, to ignore the subject, but they have a far more important duty to perform. They ought to make as their chief aim the great work of feeding souls with the bread of life, and give comfort and encouragement to the sorrowing and distressed. Let Christian people, as they read their church paper, keep this thought in mind, and they will not be disappointed in the paper, but will receive from it very vital help to enable them to bear whatever trials many come or to perform whatever work may be given them to do.

D. R. E. T. WELLFORD, pastor of the First Church, Newport News, Va., is sending out to the members of his church a card, on which this appears: "The Army of the Living God moves Sunday. Both divisions, male and female, assemble at their Armory (here a hand points to a picture of the church) at 11 A. M. The King will be present in person. Stand to your colors." We are glad to find that some of the churches, which in the past have given up some of their services in the summer, are arranging to carry on all of them this year. Christian people should realize that their King is present at Church every time that a service ought to be held there, and should consider it a great privilege and honor to be able to meet Him there, no matter what sacrifice it may require.

NORTHERN editors are having a great deal to say about the exodus of the negroes from the South to the North. In speaking of its effect upon the South, one of them says: "The South is in a panic." We have seen and heard nothing of the panic. We dare say that some employers of labor have been inconvenienced by having their laborers leave them without warning. But we also dare to predict that the North is having a far more serious problem thrust upon it by this exodus than has the South. The South will soon adjust itself to the loss of a very small percentage of its cheapest labor. The North will find that the negroes who have gone to them will be collected in a few centres. They will also find that they are largely of the more undesirable class. The South has learned by long experience how to get along with the negroes, and we suppose the North will have to learn by experience also. The North has tried to teach the South how to handle the negro problem, when it knew nothing about it, as the negro was not there. The South will not attempt to teach the North, but will leave it to work out the problem for itself.

SONS are going from many homes into the army. They will be followed by the deepest interest and the prayers of parents at home. One of our subscribers in New Jersey, in order to give practical manifestation of this interest has ordered us to send an extra copy of the Presbyterian of the South to him, to be forwarded each week to his son in France. If this paper is a good thing for a New Jersey boy, why will it not be for the Southern boys, who are going in large numbers into the training camps and to France. We will take pleasure in mailing the paper directly to soldiers and will change the address as often as necessary. We understand that the government has made excellent arrangements for getting mail to the soldiers, both in this country and in France.